



Promoting
healthy
communities

February 29, 2016

As the Coordinator of the Ledge Light Health District Falls Prevention Coalition, I am writing in support of the Aging in Place Loan Program, Bill H.B. 5398. Our coalition, made up of partners from Backus and L+M Hospitals, home care, physical therapy, community residents, senior center directors, EMS and senior housing managers know that too often falls within the home can be the catalyst that leads to admission to long term care facilities. Sadly, financial constraints often prevent the senior from having home modifications done to help keep them safe in their home.

Our coalition has been working to provide education and resources to help keep seniors safe from falls. One of our programs provides free in-home falls prevention assessments to determine risks and provide solutions. Unfortunately, some solutions require professional home modifications that are not within the senior's financial ability such as an accessible bathroom or ramp. It would be a godsend to know that funding is available to help keep that person safe within their home.

The Aging in Place Loan Program would allow seniors peace of mind to know that they can remain in their home safely. This bill provides them a choice. Bill H.B 5398 is a win-win for the senior and Connecticut as the cost to help keep someone in their home is insignificant compared to the Medicaid costs in a long term care facility.

There is no place like home. Please vote YES for this bill.

Sincerely,


Kristin Magnussen MSN, RN
Coordinator